

**The New Testament Church**  
***Mentoring More in 2024 – Session 9 – Forgiveness***  
**February 25, 2024**  
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- I Learning begins in the heart of the Individual – and this is the heart of mentoring (discipleship)
- A. Teaching and Learning takes place in the home and church – coaching and admonishing
  - B. How we receive Truth – Romans 12:2
    1. Maintain a humble heart - observation
    2. Receive the engrafted Word – meditation (rolling it around in our minds)
    3. Practice its truths (Romans 6) – obedience (putting it into action)
  - C. So far this year...
    1. God owns us – mentoring means encouragement, teaching, coming alongside
    2. We are to disciple – being a disciple means wherever we are, we make more disciples
    3. Mentor by example with a heart for the lost; encouraging all to be grateful to God
    4. We need to encourage one another to guard our tongue so that slander/gossip doesn't divide
    1. All can mentor someone, make the initiative to get involved
- II Forgiveness – “to let go” – *the act of pardoning an offender* – we forgive in the context of God’s justice
- A. The importance of forgiveness and breaking the bondage of bitterness and resentment
    1. Quote Joyce Meyer “Do Yourself a Favor... Forgive” – pages 6-7, 9
    2. Quote Bob Mumford “The Prison of Resentment” – pages 4-5
    3. Quote Nancy Leigh DeMoss Wolgemuth “Choosing Forgiveness” – pages 34, 125-126
  - B. Hebrews 12:5-15; Eph. 4:3-6 – *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
    1. We have been forgiven by God, so it is our duty to ask for help to forgive others – Mt.6:14-15
    2. Unforgiveness is a root that gives an advantage to the enemy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 2:11; Heb. 5:15
      - a. Unforgiveness brings bitterness/resentment and is a prison – a hatred for God
      - b. Bitterness is a mountain like a tsunami, it appears impenetrable, impossible, hopeless
    3. We often bring on our own chastisement by our unwillingness to forgive, or our unwillingness to see who we have hurt by the consequences of our actions
      - a. Though forgiveness is a prayer away, rebuilding trust takes time and is a matter of justice
      - b. We are to be ministers of reconciliation – ambassadors – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:17
        1. We must learn to know Christ after the spirit, and not just after the flesh
        2. So we must learn to know one another after the spirit and not the flesh
        3. This takes time because we must discern if patterns of the flesh remain or are broken
    4. Forgiveness is the cement of unity in any church, business or community – it preserves peace
      - a. There are those who deny they have any bitterness or unforgiveness
      - b. There are many believers who have never asked God to help them forgive!
    5. Play audio / video file of Corrie Ten Boom forgiving the guard from the Concentration Camp
    6. Today, we can encourage and admonish each of you to offer forgiveness to one another
  - C. Ephesians 4:4-6 – *There is one body and one Spirit... one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*
    1. The Church is designed to model unity, avoiding uniformity (forced unity) and discord
    2. Unity is maintained when something greater is the true goal – one Spirit, one hope...
    3. Forgiveness and rebuilding trust are two distinct things...
      - a. Quote Allen in *Why Social Justice is not Biblical Justice*, pages 33-34 (DenHollander)
      - b. The vertical can be cleansed by God directly; but the horizontal rebuilding of trust takes time, willing to acknowledge who may have been hurt and *initiating contact* if necessary
    4. God is preparing us for a harvest of souls who will need mentoring in this critical area!